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AMEND THIS APPLICATION AS FOLLOWS:

In The Claims: (Please enter the complete listing of the claims below)

CLAIMS 1-282. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 283. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 284. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion or portions on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 285. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 286. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 287. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 288. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 289. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 290. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 291. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 292. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a- molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 293. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 294. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 295. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288; 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said analyte comprises a biological system.

CLAIM 296. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 295, wherein said biological system comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof, and a cell or a cellular component thereof.

CLAIM 297. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 296, wherein said cell or component thereof comprises a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof.

CLAIM 298. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 295, wherein said biological system comprises a pathogen or a component thereof.

CLAIM 299. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said analyte is selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid and a protein.

CLAIM 300. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 299, wherein said analyte nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine, and a nucleotide analog-containing nucleic acid polymer, or any combination of the foregoing.

CLAIM 301. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion comprises a low molecular weight organic compound.

CLAIM 302. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of an antigen and an antibody.

CLAIM 303. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 302, wherein said antibody comprises a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody.

CLAIM 304. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of a saccharide and a lectin.

CLAIM 305. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of a hormone and a receptor therefor.

CLAIM 306. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate and an enzyme cofactor.

CLAIM 307. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of a ligand and a receptor therefor.

CLAIM 308. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion is selected from the group consisting of a protein and a protein receptor therefor.

CLAIM 309. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging recognizing first portion comprise a nucleic acid.

CLAIM 310. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 309, wherein said nucleic acid comprises an oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 311. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises a modified oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 312. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310 wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises one or more nucleotides modified on the sugar phosphate, base, or combinations thereof.

CLAIM 313. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is single-stranded or partially double-stranded.

CLAIM 314. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is circular or linear.

CLAIM 315. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and a nucleotide analog-containing oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

CLAIM 316. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said nucleic acid sequence or segment in the molecular bridging entity second portion comprises an oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 317. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 315, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises a modified oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 318. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 316, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises one or more nucleotides modified on the sugar, phosphate, base or combinations thereof.

CLAIM 319. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said nucleic acid sequences or segments in the molecular bridging entity second portion is single-stranded or partially double-stranded.

CLAIM 320. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said nucleic acid sequences or segments in the molecular bridging entity second portion is linear or circular.

CLAIM 321. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 316, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and a nucleotide analog-containing oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

CLAIM 322. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said nucleic acid sequences or segments in the molecular bridging entity second portion is derived from a phage selected from the group consisting of a T even phage, a filamentous phage, an M13 phage, or, an M 13 phage variant.

CLAIM 323. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging entity second portion comprises a nucleic acid sequence or segment of repeating low complexity.

CLAIM 324. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 323, wherein said nucleic acid sequence or segment of repeating low complexity is selected from the group consisting of a poly G or polydeoxy G, poly GT or polydeoxy GT, poly C or polydeoxy C, poly T or polydeoxy T, poly A or polydeoxy A, poly CA or polydeoxy CA, poly GA or polydeoxy GA, poly GAT or polydeoxy GAT, and poly GTA or polydeoxy GTA.

CLAIM 325. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 310, wherein said molecular bridging entity first portion and said molecular bridging entity nucleic acid second portion are incapable of hybridizing to identical oligo- or polynucleotide sequences.

CLAIM 326. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said nucleic acid sequences or segments in the molecular bridging entity second portion are covalently attached to one another.

CLAIM 327. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion comprises an oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 328. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 327, wherein said signalling entity oligo- or polynucleotide is selected from the group consisting of an oligo- or polyribonucleotide, an oligo- or polydeoxyribonucleotide, a poly-purine, a poly-pyrimidine and a nucleotide analog-containing oligo- or polynucleotide, or any combination of the foregoing.

CLAIM 329. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 327, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises a modified oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 330. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 327, wherein said oligo- or polynucleotide comprises one or more nucleotides modified on the sugar, phosphate, base or combinations thereof.

CLAIM 331. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion is single-stranded or partially double-stranded.

CLAIM 332. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of the claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion is linear or circular.

CLAIM 333. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 332, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion is a polymer derived from a linear or circular nucleic acid molecule covalently attached to a signal generating portion or a signalling chemical moiety.

CLAIM 334. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion is derived from a phage selected from the group consisting of a T even phage, a filamentous phage, and an M 13 phage, or an M 13 phage variant.

CLAIM 335. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 329, wherein said signalling entity modified oligo- or polynucleotide comprises a naturally occurring modified oligo- or polynucleotide.

CLAIM 336. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 335, wherein said signalling entity modified oligo- or polynucleotide carries a cloned insert.

CLAIM 337. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signalling entity nucleic acid portion comprises a nucleic acid sequence or segment of repeating low complexity.

CLAIM 338. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 337, wherein said nucleic acid sequence or segment of repeating low complexity is selected from the group consisting of a poly G or polydeoxy G, poly GT or polydeoxy GT, poly C or polydeoxy C, poly T or polydeoxy T, poly A or polydeoxy A, poly CA or polydeoxy CA, poly GA or polydeoxy GA, poly GAT or polydeoxy GAT, and poly GTA or polydeoxy GTA.

CLAIM 339. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are capable of directly providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 340. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 339, wherein said direct signal providing signal generating portion comprises a radioactive compound.

CLAIM 341. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 339, wherein said direct signal providing signal generating portion is selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound and an electron dense compound.

CLAIM 342. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 339, wherein said direct signal providing signal generating portion comprises an enzyme.

CLAIM 343. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are indirectly capable of indirectly providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 344. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 343, wherein said indirect signal providing signal generating portion is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand and an enzyme.

CLAIM 345. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 343, wherein said indirect signal providing signal generating portion comprises a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety.

CLAIM 346. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 343, wherein said indirect signal providing signal generating portion comprises a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 347. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are capable of being detected by a member selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic measurement, a fluorescent measurement, a phosphorescent measurement,, a chemiluminescent measurement, a colorimetric measurement, a microscopic measurement, an electron density measurement, and a radioactive measurement.

CLAIM 348. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is greater than 5.

CLAIM 349. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 348, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 350. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the ratio of the signal generating portions or the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is greater than 1.

CLAIM 351. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 350, wherein the ratio is greater than 5.

CLAIM 352. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 351, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 353. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is greater than 1, and the ratio of the signal generating portions or the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities are greater than 1.

CLAIM 354. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 353, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 5.

CLAIM 355. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 354, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 10.

CLAIM 356. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the ratio of signalling entities to molecular bridging entity is greater than 5.

CLAIM 357. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 356, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 358. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 284, 286, 288, 290, 293 or 294, wherein the analyte is immobilized.

CLAIM 359. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the molecular bridging entity is immobilized.

CLAIM 360. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) An article of manufacture comprising:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion nucleic acid sequences or segments, and one or more signal generating portions, each capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 361. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) An article of manufacture comprising:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion nucleic acid sequences or segments, and one or more polynucleotides which have been chemically modified or artificially altered.

CLAIM 362. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The article of manufacture according to claims 360 or 361, further comprising the analyte.

CLAIM 363. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 364. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 443, 445, or 447 characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 365. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 443, 445, or 447, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said analyte under conditions sufficient to form said complex recited in said forming step.

366. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 443, wherein detecting is directly carried out by means of a detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion.

CLAIM 367. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 366, wherein said detecting step the direct detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion comprises a radioactive compound.

CLAIM 368. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 366, wherein said detecting step the direct detectable signal is provided by a member selected from the group consisting of a flurogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound and an electron dense compound.

CLAIM 369. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 368, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises an enzyme.

CLAIM 370. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 443, wherein detecting is indirectly carried out by means of a detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion.

CLAIM 371. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 370, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand and an enzyme.

CLAIM 372. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 370, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety.

CLAIM 373. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 370, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 374. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 443, wherein said signal generating portion is capable of being detected by a member selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic measurement, a fluorescent measurement, a phosphorescent measurement, a chemiluminescent measurement, a colorimetric measurement, a microscopic measurement, an electron density measurement, a radioactive measurement and a binding step on an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 375. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 443, wherein the analyte is fixed or immobilized.

CLAIM 376. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 375, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place before forming the complex in said complex forming step.

CLAIM 377. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 375, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place after forming the complex in said complex forming step.

CLAIM 378. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 375, further comprising one or more washing steps.

CLAIM 379. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 443, wherein the molecular bridging entity is immobilized.

CLAIM 380. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 279, further comprising one or more washing steps.

CLAIM 381. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 382. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 449, 451, or 453, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 383. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 449, 451 or 453, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said analyte to form said complex recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 384. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 444, wherein detecting is directly carried out by means of a detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion.

CLAIM 385. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 384, wherein said detecting step the direct detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion comprises a radioactive compound.

CLAIM 386. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 384, wherein said detecting step the direct detectable signal is provided by a member selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound and an electron dense compound.

CLAIM 387. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 386, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises an enzyme.

CLAIM 388. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 444, wherein detecting is indirectly carried out by means of a detectable signal provided by said signal generating portion.

CLAIM 389. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 386, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand and an enzyme.

CLAIM 390. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 388, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety.

CLAIM 391. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 388, wherein said detecting step the signal generating portion comprises a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 392. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 444, wherein said signal generating portion is capable of being detected by a member selected from the group consisting of an enzymatic measurement, a fluorescent measurement, a phosphorescent measurement, a chemiluminescent measurement, a colorimetric measurement, a microscopic measurement, an electron density measurement, a radioactive measurement and a binding step on an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 393. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 444, wherein the analyte is fixed for immobilized.

CLAIM 394. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 393, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place before forming the complex in said complex forming step.

CLAIM 395. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 393, wherein fixing or immobilizing the analyte takes place after forming the complex in said complex forming step.

CLAIM 396. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 393, further comprising one or more washing steps.

CLAIM 397. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 444, wherein the molecular bridging entity is immobilized.

CLAIM 398. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 397, further comprising one or more washing steps.

CLAIM 399. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 400. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 455, 457 or 458, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said fixed or immobilized analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 401. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 455, 457 or 458, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said fixed or immobilized analyte under conditions sufficient to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 402. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 445, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 403. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 400, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 404. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 401, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 405. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 406. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 459, characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said fixed or immobilized analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the first complex with said signalling entity to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 407. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 459 characterized in that said forming step comprises contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entity under conditions sufficient to form a first complex and thereafter contacting the fixed or immobilized analyte with the first complex under conditions sufficient to form said complex comprising said composition and said analyte recited in said forming step.

CLAIM 408. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The process according to claim 446, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 409. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 406, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 410. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claim 407, further comprising one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 411. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

- (i) a container carrying a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, and a second portion comprising one, or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

- (ii) a container carrying more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion nucleic acid sequence or segment, and one or more signal generating portions, each such portion being capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 412. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a container carrying a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable portion, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion, and one or more signal generating portions, each such portion being capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 413. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a container carrying more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a container carrying more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion to form a polynucleotide hybrid, and one or more signal generating portions, capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 414. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon comprising as components thereof:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 415. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a complex which comprises:

(i) more than one molecular bridging entity, each such, entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

(ii) more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal.

CLAIM 416. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

- a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

- more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more polynucleotides which have been chemically modified or artificially altered.

CLAIM 417. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

- a complex which comprises:

- a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

- more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion to form a polynucleotide hybrid, and one or more; polynucleotides which have been chemically modified or artificially altered.

CLAIM 418. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claim 411, 412, 413, 414 or 415, further comprising means to detect a signal from said signal generating portion.

CLAIM 419. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claims 416 or 417, further comprising means to detect a signal from said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides.

CLAIM 420. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414 or 415, wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is greater than 5.

CLAIM 421. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 420, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 422. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414 or 415, wherein the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is greater than 1.

CLAIM 423. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claims 416 or 417, wherein the ratio of the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is greater than 1.

CLAIM 424. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 423, wherein the ratio is greater than 5.

CLAIM 425. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 424, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 426. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to, any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414 or 415, wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is greater than 1, and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is greater than 1.

CLAIM 427. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claims 416 or 417, wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is greater than 1, and the ratio of the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is greater than 1.

CLAIM 428. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 426, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 5.

CLAIM 429. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 428, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 10.

CLAIM 430. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 427, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 5.

CLAIM 431. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 430, wherein one or both ratios are greater than 10.

CLAIM 432. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416 or 417, wherein the ratio of signalling entities to the molecular bridging entity is greater than 5.

CLAIM 433. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claim 432, wherein the ratio is greater than 10.

CLAIM 434. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414 or 415, wherein said signal generating portion is carried in a separate container from the container carrying the signalling entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion.

CLAIM 435. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to claims 416 or 417, wherein said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are carried in a separate container from the container carrying the signalling entity comprising a nucleic acid, portion capable of binding to or hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion.

CLAIM 436. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416 or 417, wherein said analyte comprises a biological system.

CLAIM 437. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit according to any of claims 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416 or 417, further comprising one or more solid supports.

CLAIM 438. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claims 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides comprise one or more nucleic acid analogs.

CLAIM 439. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process according to claims 442, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 458 or 459, wherein said step of detecting the analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex comprises carrying out a binding step on an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 440. (CANCELLED)

CLAIM 441. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 309, wherein the nucleic acid in said molecular bridging entity recognizing first portion and said molecular bridging entity nucleic acid second portion are incapable of hybridizing to identical oligo- or polynucleotide sequences.

CLAIM 442. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing the composition of claim 462;
forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 443. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 444. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and
detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion
or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 445. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having
one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each
such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or
hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second
portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially
incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on
said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of
hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and
one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal; and

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating, portion
or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 446. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having
one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first
portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly
recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more
nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 447. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:
providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 448. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 449. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion or portions on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable

of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 450. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 451. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 452. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 453. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 454. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising;

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially, incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising the components of said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 455. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition which comprises:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

forming a complex comprising, said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 456. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition of matter comprising a complex which comprises: a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portion capable of providing a detectable signal;

fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and
detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 457. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition comprising:

a first part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal; fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 458. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

providing a composition comprising:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than

one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 459. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

providing a composition comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by means of said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 460. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A process for detecting an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising:

fixing or immobilizing said analyte or a sample containing said analyte to a solid support;

providing a composition comprising a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of providing a detectable signal;

forming a complex comprising said composition and said analyte; and

detecting said analyte by a signal provided by means of said signal generating portion or portions present in said complex.

CLAIM 461. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said signal generating portion or said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are capable of being detected by a binding member in an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 462. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 286, 287, 288, 289, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein the nucleic acid in said molecular bridging entity recognizing first portion and said molecular bridging entity nucleic acid second portion are incapable of hybridizing to identical oligo- or polynucleotide sequences.

CLAIM 463. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293 or 294, wherein said molecular bridging entity comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid-protein polymer, a nucleic acid-polypeptide polymer, a nucleic acid-polysaccharide polymer and a polypeptide-polysaccharide polymer, said polymer comprising one or more chemically modified purines, one or more chemically modified pyrimidines, one or more chemically modified sugar moieties, or one or more chemically modified phosphate moieties, or a combination of any of the foregoing.

CLAIM 464. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly

providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 465. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion or portions on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or

indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 466. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments;

and one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic

compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 467. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected

from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 468. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide

sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 469. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;

a second part which comprises more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable analyte portion, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide

sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 470. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 471. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;
more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion
capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly
recognizable analyte portion, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion
comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a
viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or
cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component
thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a
polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an
allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a
protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid
sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of
binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte,
each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said
more than one bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal
generating portions capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal,
said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group
consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic
compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an
enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected
from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a
ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-
containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 472. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a second part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 473. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 474. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:

a first part which comprises an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, said analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a bacterium or a bacterial component thereof;

a second part which comprises a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said first portion being selected from the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a third part which comprises one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 475. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A composition of matter comprising:
a complex which comprises:

an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon;
a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and
binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, said
analyte molecularly recognizable portion comprising a biological system selected
from the group consisting of a virus or a viral component thereof and a cell or a
cellular component thereof, said cell or cellular component thereof comprising a
bacterium or a bacterial component thereof, said first portion being selected from
the group consisting of an antigen, a polyclonal or a monoclonal antibody, a
hormone, a receptor, an enzyme, an allosteric effector, an enzyme substrate, an
enzyme cofactor, a protein and a protein receptor, and a second portion comprising
one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

one or more non-radioactive signalling entities substantially incapable of
binding to or hybridizing with the molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte,
each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said
bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more chemically modified or
artificially altered polynucleotides capable of directly or indirectly providing a
detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being
selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent
compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron
dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating
portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a
hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of
recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an
insoluble phase.

CLAIM 476. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474 or 475, wherein said nucleic acid sequences or segments in the molecular bridging entity second portion, or said signalling entity nucleic acid portion, or both, are derived from the group consisting of a T even phage, a filamentous phage, and a M13 phage or an M13 phage variant.

CLAIM 477. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to any of claims 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474 or 475, wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from the group consisting of a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10, and wherein the ratio of the signal generating portions or the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from the group consisting of a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 478. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition according to claim 477, wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity, and the ratio of the signal generating portions or the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from the group consisting of a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 479. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

(i) a container carrying a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a container carrying more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion nucleic acid sequence or segment, and one or more signal generating portions, each such portion being capable of providing a detectable signal;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 480. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a container carrying a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable portion, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion, and one or more signal generating portions, each such portion being capable of providing a detectable signal;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 481. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a container carrying more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

a container carrying more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion to form a polynucleotide hybrid, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal; wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 482. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 483. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a complex which comprises:

(i) more than one molecular bridging entity, each such entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

(ii) more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more signal generating portions capable of providing a detectable signal;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the signal generating portions to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 484. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion, and one or more polynucleotides which have been chemically modified or artificially altered;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein one or both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 485. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

a complex which comprises:

a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with a molecularly recognizable portion on an analyte, and a second portion comprising one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

more than one non-radioactive signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion to form a polynucleotide hybrid, and one or more polynucleotides which have been chemically modified or artificially altered;

wherein the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity is selected from a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10; or

wherein one or both the ratio of the nucleic acid sequences or segments in the second portion to the first portion of the molecular bridging entity and the ratio of the one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides to the nucleic acid portion in any or all of the signalling entities is selected from a number greater than 1, a number greater than 5 and a number greater than 10.

CLAIM 486. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The kit of any of claims 479, 480, 481, 482 or 483, wherein said signal generating portion is carried in a separate container from the container carrying the signalling entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion.

CLAIM 487. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The kit of claims 484 or 485, wherein said one or more chemically modified or artificially altered polynucleotides are carried in a separate container from the container carrying the signalling entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity nucleic acid second portion.

CLAIM 488. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 443, said kit comprising as components thereof the first part and the second part of the composition provided in said process.

CLAIM 489. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 444, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 490. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 445, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part and said second part provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 491. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 446, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 492. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 447, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part and said second part provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 493. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 448, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 494. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 449, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part, said second part and said third part provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 495. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 450, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 496. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 451, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part, said second part and said third part provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 497. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 452, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 498. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 453, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part, said second part and said third part provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 499. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 454, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition in said process.

CLAIM 500. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 455, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part and said second part provided as a composition and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 501. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 456, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 502. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 457, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part and said second part provided as a composition and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 503. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 458, said kit comprising as components thereof said composition provided and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 504. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 459, said kit comprising as components thereof said first part and said second part provided as a composition and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 505. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A kit for use in carrying out the process of claim 460, said kit comprising as components thereof said complex provided as a composition and said solid support in said process.

CLAIM 506. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A polynucleotide sequence covalently attached to an antibody.

CLAIM 507. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A polynucleotide sequence covalently attached to a monoclonal antibody.

CLAIM 508. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A polynucleotide sequence covalently attached to a lectin.

509. (CANCELED)

CLAIM 510. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A polynucleotide sequence covalently attached to a hormonal receptor.

CLAIM 511. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) A polynucleotide sequence covalently attached to a hormone.

CLAIMS 512-515. (CANCELED)

CLAIM 516. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The A DNA molecule of claim 512, further~~
~~carrying which carries~~ a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a gene
sequence or portion thereof of a nucleic acid containing organism, and which
further carries a polynucleotide portion which comprises a repeating low-complexity
polynucleotide sequence of a dinucleotide repeat or a trinucleotide repeat.

CLAIM 517. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The DNA molecule of claim 516, wherein
said organism is selected from the group consisting of a virus, a prokaryotic cell
and a eukaryotic cell.

CLAIM 518. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The DNA molecule of claim 517, wherein
said prokaryotic cell is a bacterium.

CLAIM 519. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The DNA molecule of claim 517, wherein
said eukaryotic cell is a mammalian cell.

CLAIM 520. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The DNA molecule of claim 516, wherein
said DNA molecule is derived from a filamentous phage.

CLAIM 521. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The DNA molecule of claim 520, wherein
said filamentous phage is a M13 phage or a M13 phage variant.

CLAIM 522. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A circular DNA molecule covalently attached to a non-radiolabeled ~~non-nucleotidyl~~ signal generating moiety capable of directly or indirectly providing a detectable signal, said direct signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of a fluorogenic compound, a phosphorescent compound, a chromogenic compound, a chemiluminescent compound, an electron dense compound, an enzyme, and said indirect signal providing signal generating portion being selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antigen, a hapten, a receptor, a ligand, an enzyme, a polynucleotide sequence capable of recognizing a signal-containing moiety, and a compound capable of binding to an insoluble phase.

CLAIM 523. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The circular DNA molecule of claim 522, wherein said circular DNA molecule is derived from a filamentous phage.

CLAIM 524. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The DNA molecule of claim 522, further carrying a polynucleotide portion which comprises a repeating low complexity polynucleotide sequence of a dinucleotide repeat or a trinucleotide repeat selected from the group consisting of poly dGT, poly dAC, poly dCT, poly dAT, poly dGC, poly dGA, poly dG, poly dC, poly dT, poly dA, and any combination thereof.

CLAIM 525. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The circular DNA molecule of claim 522, which carries a polynucleotide portion which is rich in cytosine residues.

CLAIM 526. (CANCELED)

CLAIM 527. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The DNA molecule of claim 522, further carrying a polynucleotide portion which comprises a sequence coding for part or whole of a gene.

CLAIM 528. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A circular DNA molecule covalently attached to a non-radiolabeled signal generating moiety that comprises an enzyme.

CLAIM 529. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A circular DNA molecule comprising a polynucleotide that encodes part or all of a gene, wherein the DNA molecule is covalently attached to a non-radiolabeled signal generating moiety that comprises biotin.

CLAIM 530. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A circular DNA molecule comprising a polynucleotide that encodes part or all of a gene, wherein the DNA molecule is covalently attached to a non-radiolabeled signal generating moiety that comprises an antibody.

CLAIM 531. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A circular DNA molecule comprising a polynucleotide that encodes part or all of a gene, wherein the DNA molecule is covalently attached to a non-radiolabeled signal generating moiety that comprises a fluorogenic compound.

CLAIM 532. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 443, wherein said analyte is a DNA sequence, said bridging entity is a single-stranded DNA sequence, and said signalling entities are single-stranded DNA sequences.

CLAIM 533. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 532, wherein said bridging entity is derived from a filamentous phage.

CLAIM 534. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 533, wherein said signalling entities are derived from filamentous phages.

CLAIM 535. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 534, wherein said bridging entity codes for a gene product or fragment thereof, and said forming step comprises either (i) contacting said analyte with said bridging entity to form a first complex and thereafter contacting said first complex with said signalling entities to form said detectable complex or (ii) contacting said bridging entity with said signalling entities to form a first complex and thereafter contacting said first complex with said analyte to form said detectable complex.

CLAIM 536. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 443, wherein said analyte is a polynucleotide, said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are repeating low complexity nucleic acid sequences or segments, and said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are incapable of hybridizing to the analyte.

CLAIM 537. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 536, wherein said signal is amplified because the ratio of the signalling entities to the bridging entity exceeds 5.

CLAIM 538. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit of claim 411, wherein said analyte is a polynucleotide, said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are repeating low complexity nucleic acid sequences or segments, and said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are incapable of hybridizing to the analyte.

CLAIM 539. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit of claim 538, wherein said signal is amplified because the ratio of the signalling entities to the bridging entity exceeds 5.

CLAIM 540. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 443, wherein said analyte is a single-stranded DNA sequence fixed to a solid support, said bridging entity comprises non-naturally occurring or artificially modified DNA, said bridging entity first portion comprises a linear single-stranded polynucleotide sequence, said bridging entity first portion is covalently bound to said bridging entity second portion, and said bridging entity second portion is single-stranded and linear and comprises more than one of said nucleic acid sequences or segments.

CLAIM 541. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The process of claim 540, wherein said signalling entities are single-stranded oligo- or polynucleotide sequences, said bridging entity first portion is capable of encoding a gene product or fragment thereof, and the process further comprises one or more washing steps prior to detection.

CLAIM 542. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition of claim 283, wherein said analyte is a single-stranded DNA sequence fixed to a solid support, said bridging entity comprises non-naturally occurring or artificially modified DNA, said bridging entity first portion comprises a linear single-stranded polynucleotide sequence, said bridging entity first portion is covalently bound to said bridging entity second portion, and said bridging entity second portion is single-stranded and linear and comprises more than one of said nucleic acid sequences or segments.

CLAIM 543. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The composition of claim 542, wherein said signalling entities are single-stranded oligo- or polynucleotide sequences and said bridging entity first portion is capable of encoding a gene product or fragment thereof.

CLAIM 544. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit of claim 411, wherein said analyte is a single-stranded DNA sequence fixed to a solid support, said bridging entity comprises non-naturally occurring or artificially modified DNA, said bridging entity first portion comprises a linear single-stranded polynucleotide sequence, said bridging entity first portion is covalently bound to said bridging entity second portion, and said bridging entity second portion is single-stranded and linear and comprises more than one of said nucleic acid sequences or segments.

CLAIM 545. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit of claim 544, wherein said signalling entities are single-stranded oligo- or polynucleotide sequences and said bridging entity first portion is capable of encoding a gene product or fragment thereof.

CLAIM 546. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A kit for the detection in a sample of an analyte having one or more molecularly recognizable portions thereon, comprising as components thereof:

- (i) a container carrying a molecular bridging entity comprising a first portion capable of recognizing and binding to or hybridizing with said molecularly recognizable portion on said analyte, and a second portion comprising one, or more nucleic acid sequences or segments; and

- (ii) a container carrying more than one signalling entity, each such entity comprising a nucleic acid portion capable of hybridizing with said bridging entity second portion nucleic acid sequence or segment, and one or more signal generating portions, each such portion being capable of providing a detectable signal,

wherein said analyte is a polynucleotide, said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are repeating low complexity nucleic acid sequences or segments, and said one or more nucleic acid sequences or segments of said second portion are incapable of hybridizing to the analyte.

CLAIM 547. (PREVIOUSLY ADDED) The kit of claim 546, wherein said signal is amplified because the ratio of the signalling entities to the bridging entity exceeds 5.

CLAIM 548. (NEW) The DNA molecule of claim 516, wherein said dinucleotide repeat is selected from the group consisting of poly dGT, poly dAC, poly dCT, poly dAT, poly GC and poly dGA, and wherein said trinucleotide repeat is selected from the group consisting of poly dGAT and poly dGTA.

CLAIM 549. (NEW) The DNA molecule of claim 524, wherein said dinucleotide repeat is selected from the group consisting of poly dGT, poly dAC, poly dCT, poly dAT, poly GC and poly dGA, and wherein said trinucleotide repeat is selected from the group consisting of poly dGAT and poly dGTA.

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